

Remarks

A petition for withdrawal from issue, along with an accompanying Request for Continued Examination, was filed August 13, 2003. The present applicants have amended certain of the claims as provided hereinabove.

At the time of drafting the originally-filed claims, the undersigned applicants' attorneys had considered numerous items of prior art identified in a patentability search performed by a private patent search firm and these items were disclosed to the USPTO along with a number of other items from files thought to contain potentially relevant art. These other items of art had not been exhaustively reviewed for the purpose of assessing patentability of the subject matter claimed in the present application. Prior to filing the RCE in the present application, the applicants received a PCT International Search Report dated June 24, 2003, in connection with a corresponding PCT application. This International Search Report identified certain items of art some of which had already been called to the attention of the examiner of the present application prior to filing the RCE. Following review of the art noted in the International Search Report, the present applicants filed the petition for withdrawal and accompanying RCE in order to cite the art from the International Search Report and to allow for the filing of the present amendment.

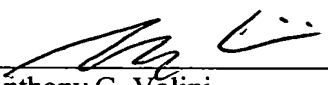
The foregoing claim amendments are provided to clarify the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Reconsideration and allowance of the foregoing claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

McCracken & Frank
Attorneys at Law
200 W. Adams
Suite 2150
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 263-4700
Customer No: 29471

August 29, 2003

By: 
Anthony G. Volini
Reg. No: 48,016